Faculty Training--Interactive TV Teaching/Learning

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Teacher "Presence" and Behaviors in TV Teaching

- 1. Successful TV teachers create a "presence" that capitalizes on the use of television as a teaching medium. In this respect, much can be learned from broadcast television--that is, noting how TV anchors (1) look directly into the camera, (2 are precise and articulate in their selections of words, (3 support their presentations [News] with a high degree of visual content [images and televised text] and (4) appear self-assured and at ease.
- 2. Let your own personality show through. Relax and be yourself. Act natural, show emotion--be amazed, be interesting, be curious, be animated. Laugh--be real. "Speak" with your eyes, sparkle, and wink, tries to "connect" with your distance students.
- 3. Avoid annoying mannerisms (e.g. constantly adjusting tie, stroking hair, speaking with hands to your mouth, sniffling, mumbling, etc.) Speak slowly and precisely. Avoid rambling and/or excessive wordiness. Also, body movements should be slow and deliberate. Rapid movements cause "blurs" and distract students.
- 4. Become familiar with the camera. Look directly into the lens. Visualize the camera as one of your distant students. Students need to have the **"eye"** contact with you to maintain their attention and interest. "Visualize" in your mind that you are speaking **with** your students, not **at** them.
- Select your dress and conduct your grooming so as not to distract from the lesson. Light pastels and conservative dress look better on camera than do loud or flamboyant styles, avoid while, black, red, or dark blue as these do not project well on TV.

6. Remember that TV's aspect ratio is 3:4

3:4

not

4:3

Therefore, design your visuals appropriately. Video projection should be horizontal, not vertical; make good use of visuals (e.g. text, graphics, presentation software, slides, etc.) to minimize the "talking head" syndrome.